

STATE OF IOWA



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WILLIAM P. ANGRICK II  
CITIZENS' AIDE/OMBUDSMAN

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**To: Freedom of Information, open meetings, and Public Records Study Committee**  
**From: William P. Angrick II, Ombudsman**  
**Date: January 10, 2008**  
**Re: Review of Section 22.7 Exemptions in view of Proposed Definitions of Records**

In view of the proposal to redefine what is a "government record," "public record," "confidential record," and "optional public record," the Ombudsman believes it is timely to review the exemptions under section 22.7. It is our understanding all the exemptions under section 22.7 would become "optional public records." However, we believe there are some exemptions that may not have been intended to be subject to discretionary release by a governmental body. An example is exemption 32 pertaining to social security number of the owners of unclaimed property reported to the State Treasurer. Some exemptions we believe to be strictly confidential as to the general public provide exceptions within the exemption itself. Any example is exemption 41, which specifically states that medical examiner's investigative and autopsy reports may be release to law enforcement agency and the decedent's immediate next of kin. Other exemptions we believe do fit the category of "optional public records" that a government body has discretion to release, such as law enforcement investigative reports under exemption 5.